



# OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

246 North High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

614/466-3543  
[www.odh.ohio.gov](http://www.odh.ohio.gov)

Ted Strickland/Governor

Anne R. Harnish/Acting Director

Dear Business Proprietor,

On Election Day, Ohio voters passed Issue 5, creating Ohio's new smoking ban under a new chapter of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC). This new law requires proprietors of public places and workplaces to prohibit smoking. It also requires the Director of Health to adopt rules setting forth enforcement procedures and a schedule of fines. While the law took effect in December, the Director of Health has six months, or until June of this year, to adopt rules.

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) plans to have the rules adopted before June 7, 2007. Until then, businesses and organizations are required to comply with the statutes. The major requirements of these statutes include:

- Prohibiting smoking in any public place or place of employment.
- Removing all ash trays and other receptacles used for disposing of smoking materials from any area where smoking is prohibited by the statute.
- Posting conspicuous signs in every public place and place of employment where smoking is prohibited, including at each entrance. The law (ORC 3794.06) requires these signs to say "No Smoking" or have the international "No Smoking" symbol (consisting of a pictorial representation of a burning cigarette enclosed in a red circle with a red bar across it). The signs must be clearly legible and shall contain a toll free number for reporting violations: 1-866-559-OHIO (6446).

*Downloadable versions of acceptable signs are posted on the ODH web site, [www.odh.ohio.gov](http://www.odh.ohio.gov).*

The toll-free phone lines and email addresses established for implementation of this new law are:

## **To Report Violations**

Toll-free enforcement line: 1-866-559-OHIO (6446)

E-mail address: [NoSmoke@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:NoSmoke@odh.ohio.gov)

## **To Obtain Information**

Toll-free information line: 1-866-ODH (634)-7654

E-mail address: [SmkInfo@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:SmkInfo@odh.ohio.gov)

A draft version of the rules is available on the ODH Web site.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anne R. Harnish'.

Anne R. Harnish  
Acting Director